



The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies.

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Update from the IAA Network Leads

Members of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance:

Although the rain has been falling the past few days, there is no doubt that spring is here after a long winter. For those of you that work directly with students, undoubtedly the urge to get outside has taken over program time. As the Iowa Afterschool Alliance reinvigorates our own plans as seasons change, we are excited to continue to locate and take advantage of new partnerships and ideas to support the work that you all do in your communities.

Over the winter, the IAA has been conducting our first set of professional development opportunities focusing on quality and communications. The program providers and partners that have joined us during the past eight months have encouraged the network staff to expand provision of these services to “take our show on the road” and trek across Iowa to bring information to even more individuals and organizations. In light of this feedback, the IAA will be conducting a professional development assessment in the coming month to better understand what afterschool providers are looking for in professional development opportunities. Please take a moment when this short electronic survey arrives in your inbox

next month. With your help, we can continue to make sure that the services provided by the network best fits your needs and budgets.

Best Regards,

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance Team

Brooke Findley, Michelle Rich, Amelia Colwell, and Burke Milnes



Federal Policy Update

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization (ESEA) Update

During discussions last week in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee last week, lawmakers came to agreement that the idea of educating the “whole child” must include a broad range of support such as summer and afterschool enrichment activities, mentoring, and college counseling. Advocates and supporters are hoping that this type of support will be included in the re-write of the ESEA. Senator Harkin has said he hopes to hold a committee vote on the bill in June. To read more about ESEA, go to http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/04/28/30esea_ep.h29.html?tkn=UMTFVD1w2z49FI_CgP%2BVqYUR4P90dRGj12HDF&cmp=clp-edweek

Keep Our Educators Working Act

Senator Harkin introduced the Keep Our Educators Working Act, which would appropriate \$23 million Education Jobs Fund to help keep teachers, principals, librarians, and other school personnel, as states face crippling budget shortfalls. The fund will be modeled after the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) that was established in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (the ‘Recovery Act’). The SFSF is currently supporting more than 300,000 education jobs, such as teachers, principals, librarians, and counselors, and is widely credited with mitigating the impact of the recent recession. Even with the SFSF, schools across the country have laid off workers, and the job outlook is worse for the 2010-2011 school year. Additional resources are needed to help states and districts avoid a “funding cliff” that would result in even more layoffs. Updates will continue on the status of this legislation. For more information on this legislation, please visit <http://harkin.senate.gov/press/release.cfm?i=323822> or for full text of the bill visit <http://harkin.senate.gov/documents/pdf/4bc5e9c92993c.pdf>

Investing In Innovation (I3) Update

Now that the Notices of Intent to apply have been collected, the competition for securing an Investing In Innovation (I3) grant is proving to be great. Approximately 2,500 districts, schools, and nonprofits have filed notices. Many prospective applicants have indicated they plan to focus their proposals in either the standards and assessments or low performing schools categories. Rural education advocates and stakeholders were pleased to learn that 1,000 applicants have committed to focusing at least part of their proposal on students in rural areas. Due to the unique challenges that these rural applicants face, the Kellogg Foundation has committed funding and resources to the Rural School and Community Trust to assist rural applicants throughout the competition in competing with urban districts and organizations. The list of applicants who filed an Intent to Apply is expected to be posted by

the U.S. Department of Education very soon and the IAA will provide this when it becomes available. For more information on this grant program, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html>.



Ninth Annual Afterschool For All Challenge

The Afterschool Alliance hosted its annual Afterschool For All Challenge on April 19 through April 21 in Washington D.C. Many notable celebrities including CSI New York's Hill Harper, Hootie and the Blowfish guitarist Mark Bryan, and judge Glenda Hatchett joined parents, children, educators and policy makers in calling on Congress to preserve afterschool funding. To read more about the Afterschool For All Challenge or to see pictures, visit <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challenge.cfm>. The IAA would also like to thank Lynelle Henricksen, Loris Osterhaus, and Steve Conlan for attending this year's Challenge.

Do You Know Melissa Knepp with Davenport Community Schools?

Davenport Community Schools provides out-school-time programs such as Pathways, a program for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders, as well as Stepping Stones, which serves k-5, both offer an array of enrichment activities dealing with science experiments, world language lessons, structured recreation, yoga, art enrichment, reading enrichment, and math enrichment. The Stepping Stones & Pathways programs are offered during the school year and summer. The two programs serve approximately 1,000 students a year. The staff consists of Para-educators, college students and certified teachers. They have multiple community partners assist with daily enrichment and monthly learning excursions.

- 1. What does your role in your organization involve?** I am the Associate Field Coordinator for Davenport Community Schools Out-of-School time programs. I help manage 19 after school programs, 6 before school programs and multiple summer programs.
- 2. What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?** The greatest reward is seeing the smiles on the faces of our students. I love going out to the sites and getting to work hands on with them.
- 3. What one word would you use to describe yourself?** Dedicated
- 4. What are you most proud of?** Opportunities that the students receive by being a part of our program.
- 5. What do you enjoy in your free time?** Spending time with my family & friends.

To contact Melissa Knepp, email her at kneppm@mail.davenport.k12.ia.us.

Applications Being Accepted for the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) is currently accepting applications for its 2010-2011 cohort. The council is made up of 21 members between the ages of 14 and 20, who will get leadership and civic engagement experience, as well as training and opportunities to network. Applications are due May 24. For more information and how to apply, visit www.icyd.iowa.gov/SIYAC or e-mail SIYAC@iowa.gov.

Preview of IAA Professional Development Assessment

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is in final preparation for releasing the IAA Professional Development assessment. The assessment will be used to gain a clearer picture of what professional development opportunities for afterschool programs exist in Iowa, and also what types of activities professional development administrators and staff find most beneficial. The IAA plans to send this survey to programs throughout the state in early May. Future updates will be provided on this process. For more information on the IAA's upcoming assessment, please contact Burke Milnes at bmilnes@sppg.com.



Everybody Wins

Everybody Wins Iowa is a great opportunity to volunteer your time each week to read to a child in your community. Program participation involves reading to a child once a week for forty-five minutes during the lunch hour. Many schools throughout Iowa participate in the Everybody Wins mentoring program. To find out more about the nearest participating schools near you, contact staff at www.everybodywinsiowa.org.

Harvard Family Research Project Resources

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance reminds you to utilize the multitude of research and resources available free of charge at <http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/projects>. The Harvard Family research project maintains the only national [database of Out-of-School time evaluations and research studies](#). The database is a searchable compilation of user-friendly profiles designed to disseminate and promote evaluation. The Harvard Family Research Project recently expanded the database to include research studies that gather information about OST but do not evaluate specific programs—for example, studies from researchers at academic institutions and nonprofit organizations. For more information on the IAA's quality resources and technical assistance opportunities, please contact Michelle Rich at mrich@sppg.com.

Quality and the Partnership For Afterschool Education (PACE)

Over the past few years, afterschool program quality has received significant attention. The IAA Quality Standards and Indicators are important tools to measure program quality. The Partnership For Afterschool Education (PACE) has also conducted a significant amount of quality research on afterschool programs. To view these studies that provide measurements and background on the strides that afterschool programs visit <http://www.pasesetter.com/reframe/recentevaluations.htm>.

Chicago Afterschool Students Protest Cuts To Their Program

With education cuts occurring throughout the nation, students and educators are witnessing programs and activities vital to student success being downsized or completely eliminated. Many students who rely on afterschool programs understand the benefits and supports they provide here in Iowa and across the country. This month, 350 students walked out of classes and demonstrated in front of the Board of Education's headquarters, City Hall and the Thompson Center protesting the elimination of afterschool programs.

<http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2010/04/chicago-public-schools-protest-funding-budget-cut-rally.html>

Ready By 21 Initiative

Ready by 21, developed by the Forum for Youth Investment, helps mobilize communities to improve the odds for children and youth. The Ready By 21 Initiative continues to strive to ensure that all youth are equipped with the skills and foundation that will enable them to be prepared for college, work and life.



To learn more about this organization, their efforts and resources, please visit <http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/readyby21/home>.

Professional Development and Events

Grant Workshop: Learn How to Successfully Apply for an AmeriCorps Grant

A training will be held Thursday, May 20, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM in Meeting Room A of the Waterloo Public Library. Pre-registration is required. Sign up today at www.iowalifechanging.com/register. From 9:30-12:30, the training will provide an introduction to AmeriCorps. There will be an hour lunch break (on your own) and from 1:30-4:30, there will be a more advanced AmeriCorps training to cover the grant application process. Contact Jamie Nagel with any questions at jamie.nagel@iowa.gov or 515.725.3096.

“On the Issues” Event

10:00 AM – 4:30 PM , Thursday, May 13, 2010

Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge West Des Moines, IA

The Iowa Initiative to Reduce Unintended Pregnancies is hosting On The Issues – a series of stimulating and enlightening speeches delivered by distinguished speakers from all over the country. On May 13, 2010, we will be discussing topics related to Iowa’s Latino population and how to better address the needs of this community and reduce unintended pregnancies here in Iowa. Learn more at www.iowainitiative.org.

Iowa Math and Science Partnership Teams up with USA Science Festival

The Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership has become an official partner of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival to be held in the greater D.C. area in October 2010. The Festival, which will be the country’s first national science festival, is a collaboration of over 500 of the country’s leading science and engineering organizations that aims to reignite the interest of our nation’s youth in the sciences. The culmination of the Festival will be a two-day Expo on the National Mall on October 23-24, 2010, which will give children, teens, and adults the opportunity to explore all facets of science and engineering through hundreds of fun, hands-on activities. People across the United States will hold satellite events in their communities the same weekend that hundreds of thousands of people celebrate science on the National Mall. For more information on all Festival events and how you can get involved, visit <http://www.usasciencefestival.org> or to contribute to events scheduled here in Iowa, email them at imsep@uni.edu.

Resources

Afterschool.Gov

This website works to connect afterschool providers to Federal Resources that support children and youth during out-of-school time hours. <http://www.afterschool.gov>.

Funding Opportunities

Pepsi Refresh Project Grants

Pepsi is giving away millions of dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations that garner the most votes in an online poll. They are looking for people, businesses, and non-profits with ideas that will have a positive impact on communities, ideas that will provide a fresh perspective on issues throughout our country. This is a good chance to raise money for your program or a special project you are doing. To learn more, visit <http://www.refresheverything.com>.

Grants for Literacy Promotion

The National Book Foundation is accepting nominations for the Innovations in Reading Prize, awarded to individuals or organizations that have fostered and supported a lifelong love of reading. Several cash prizes of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to the recipients that demonstrate innovation, creativity, and risk-taking in their approach. To read about last year's winners, and for more information, visit <http://nationalbook.org/>.

Federal Funding For Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

The Office of Adolescent Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will soon announce the availability of competitive grants to a broad range of public and private entities for effective and promising teen pregnancy prevention programs. This important initiative will provide \$75 million for replicating programs that have been shown through rigorous evaluation to have positive effects on teens' behavior, and \$25 million for research and demonstration on promising programs. Visit <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/federalfunding/default.aspx> for the latest available information on these opportunities.

Definition of Afterschool

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has developed a comprehensive definition of afterschool that is used when speaking to stakeholders.

Afterschool programs are quality programs that offer safe, engaging, and enriching environments for children and youth when they are not in school. Afterschool programs not only assist youth with academic issues, but also help them develop career paths and volunteer opportunities, build social skills, and become civically engaged, as well as providing preventive, gender-specific, and other specialized programming. This may include recreation and youth development components along with education. These ongoing, continuous programs occur before school, after school, in the evenings, weekends, school and other breaks, school in-service days, or for late starts or early dismissals. They can be offered by a school, by a contractor with a school, by a community-based organization, or other partnerships at a school or other location. These programs might also be referred to as "extended learning opportunities," "out-of-school" programs, or "enrichment" programs.

Reminder

As we continue our work in promoting afterschool programs, below are words from a famous figure to remind us why we do the work we do.

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to never stop questioning."

- Albert Einstein

